

## AIM Screening/Assessment Tools

-**The Brief Jail Mental Health Screen** is an 8-Item scale designed to determine the need of further mental health assessment of individuals incarcerated in the criminal justice system. The tool has been validated in numerous setting including both all male and all female populations. Scores range from 0 to 8, with 0 indicating little or no presenting mental health symptoms to 8 indicating significant presenting mental health symptoms. The Brief Jail Mental Health Screen has been shown to be an effective screening instrument for males and females (Steadman, Robbins, Islam & Osher, Revalidating the brief jail mental health screen to increase accuracy for woman. *Psychiatric Services*. 2007 Dec; 58 (12): 1598-601).

-**The UNCOPE** is a six-item AODA screen developed on clinical and corrections populations designed to determine the presence and severity of the substance abuse disorders. Scores range from 0 to 6, with 0 indicating little or no substance abuse indicators to 6 indicating significant substance abuse indicators. The UNCOPE has performed consistently across gender and ethnic subgroups (Campbell, Hoffman, Hoffman & Gillasp, Uncope: A Screen for Substance Dependence among State Prison Inmates. *The Prison Journal*, Vol. 85, No. 1, 7-17, (2005).

-**The SOCRATES tool** is an experimental instrument that is designed to assess the readiness of change in substance abusers. The SOCRATES is a 19-item self-assessment scored on a 5 point Likert scale. Each item uses "I" statements about drug or alcohol use and asks that the subject to rank each statement from strongly agree to strongly disagree. The 19 scores factor into three domains: Recognition, Ambivalence, and Taking Steps. –

- The Recognition domain measures the client's comprehension of having a substance abuse problem.

- The Ambivalence domain measures a client's uncertainty about whether they have a problem or not.

- The Taking Steps domain measures a client's progress towards starting to change/address their AODA problem.

-**The Level of Service Inventory-Revised** can be used on male and female offenders in prison, jail or community-based settings. Scores on the LSI-R range from theoretical minimums of zero to a maximum of 54. However, it should be noted that few cases of zero or more than 50 are documented. The 54 items are grouped into ten domains that represent key criminogenic risk factors.

### Risk Assessment –LSI-R Domains

Criminal History (10)

Education/employment (10)

Financial (2)

Family/Marital (4)

Accommodation (3)

Leisure/Recreation (2)  
Companions (5)  
Alcohol/Drug Problems (9)  
Emotional/Personal (5)  
Attitudes/Orientation (4)

(Note: Number of items in each domain in parentheses)

The LSI-R provides a very concrete measure of the risk principle, which states that higher risk offenders will likely reoffend if not treated, and that low risk offenders are not likely to re-offend even without treatment. It appears that the risk principle is well supported in previous research. The LSI-R scores can be divided into various nominal risk levels. The publishers of the LSI-R provide five levels of risk (<sup>1</sup> Source: D.A. Andrews and James L. Bonta. 2001. LSI-R User's Manual. New York: MHS.).